

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please cancel Claims 31-60. Please add new Claims 61-79. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

**Claim Listing**

What is claimed is:

1.-60. (Cancelled)

61. (New) An aprotic-solvent-soluble carbonic diester of hydroxyethyl starch (HES), having a mean molecular weight Mw in the range 2000-300000 dalton, a degree of substitution MS between 0.1 and 0.8, and a C2/C6 ratio of the substituents on the carbon atoms C2 and C6 of the anhydroglucoses between 2 and 15, and having a mean content of from 1:1 to 10:1 of carbonic diester substituents per HES molecule.
62. (New) The carbonic diester of claim 61, wherein an alcohol from which the alcohol component of the carbonic diester is derived has a molecular weight in the range from 80 to 500 g/mol.
63. (New) The carbonic diester of claim 61, wherein an alcohol from which the alcohol component of the carbonic diester is derived has a pK<sub>a</sub> in the range 6 to 12.
64. (New) The carbonic diester of claim 61, wherein an alcohol from which the alcohol component of the carbonic diester is derived comprises an HO-N group or a phenol group.
65. (New) The carbonic diester of claim 61, wherein an alcohol from which the alcohol component of the carbonic diester is derived is selected from N-hydroxysuccinimide, sulfo-N- hydroxysuccinimide, substituted phenols and hydroxybenzotriazole.

66. (New) The carbonic diester of claim 65, wherein an alcohol from which the alcohol component of the carbonic diester is derived is selected from N-hydroxysuccinimide and sulfo-N- hydroxysuccinimide.
67. (New) A solid comprising at least one carbonic diester as claimed in claim 61.
68. (New) A solution comprising at least one carbonic diester of claim 61.
69. (New) The solution of claim 68, wherein the solvent comprises dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), N-methylpyrrolidone, dimethylacetamide (DMS) and/or dimethylformamide (DMF).
70. (New) A method for production of carboxylic diester of claim 61, wherein at least one hydroxyethyl starch (HES), having a mean molecular weight  $M_w$  in the range 2000-300 000 dalton, a degree of substitution  $MS$  between 0.1 and 0.8, and a C2/C6 ratio of the substituents on the carbon atoms C2 and C6 of the anhydroglucoses between 2 and 15, is reacted with at least one carbonic diester in solution in an aprotic solvent having low base activity, and the molar ratio of carbonic diester substituents per HES molecule being in the range of 1:1 to 10:1.
71. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein both alcohol components of the carbonic diester have a  $pK_a$  in the range 6 to 12.
72. (New) The method of claim 71, wherein N,N'-disuccinimidyl carbonate is used as carbonic diester.
73. (New) The method as claimed in claim 70, wherein the reaction takes place at a temperature range from 0 to 40°C.
74. (New) A method for producing pharmaceutical active substances coupled at free amino functions to hydroxyethyl starch, wherein at least one carbonic diester of claim 61 is reacted with a pharmaceutical active substance which has at least one amino group.
75. (New) The method of claim 74, wherein the reaction takes place in aqueous medium.

76. (New) The method of claim 74, wherein the pH of the aqueous medium is in the range from 7 to 9.
77. (New) The method of claim 74, wherein the reaction takes place at a temperature range from 0°C to 40°C.
78. (New) The method of claim 74, wherein the pharmaceutical active substance is a polypeptide or a protein.
79. (New) A pharmaceutically active substance obtained by the method of claim 74.